The background is a dark teal color. It features a network of thin, light teal lines that resemble a circuit board or data connections, primarily concentrated in the upper left and middle sections. In the lower right, there is a faint, stylized outline of a globe with intersecting lines representing latitude and longitude. A solid, vertical light teal bar runs along the right edge of the page.

GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER RESULTS

OVERVIEW OF GEORGIA, EASTERN EUROPE, AND CENTRAL ASIA

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The analysis was prepared by the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) within the project supported by a grant from Luminate. IDFI is responsible for the content of this analysis. Views expressed in therein do not reflect the position of Luminate.

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Key Findings

- According to the overall results of the Global Data Barometer (GDB), Georgia ranks fifth out of 12 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia with 40.25 points, after Ukraine, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Moldova.
- In the Data Governance pillar, Georgia ranks seventh in the region with 34.54 points.
- Georgia performed below average on the GDB governance module with a score of 23.50 due to the lack of an open data policy, public data exchange framework, and unified public data management system/standards.
- Georgia's results in the Land-use module are significantly reduced due to the paywall imposed by the public registry for full access to data, which hinders accessibility and runs counter to open standards.
- Most of the challenges in the region were identified within the use and impact pillar.
- Public Procurement data is the most accessible category of data in the region, according to the survey results.
- Vaccination data and vital statistics are available in almost every country in the region, although access to open data is still a significant challenge.

Introduction

The Global Data Barometer (GDB) is an international study that examines the importance and benefits of data for the public good, and is based on the Open Data Barometer methodology.¹ The GDB evaluates and scores 108 countries according to a unified methodology, based on various modules and indicators. Through the Barometer, it is possible to identify existing challenges and good practices, and compare country outcomes. GDB actively collaborates with regional hubs, thematic partners, governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, academia and the media.

The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) was selected to act as a regional hub in Central Asia and Eastern Europe as part of the GDB's 2021 pilot study.² The hub includes 12 countries - Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia.

It is important to note that the main goal of the initiative is to assess the availability of data on various public policy issues in target countries and to use the achievements and methodology of the Open Data Barometer, in order to facilitate policy development, open dialogue and further empirical research. Particular emphasis is made on analyzing the data ecosystems and data development of low and middle-income countries.

Methodology

The 2021 Edition of the GDB assesses existing data management policies and practices for the period from 1 May 2019 to 1 May 2021.

The research process in each country was led by pre-selected individual researchers, coordinated by their respective regional hubs. The index consists of nine central modules:

- Governance
- Capabilities
- Political Integrity
- Company Information
- Land
- Public Finance
- Health and Covid-19

¹ [Open Data Barometer](#)

² [Regional Hubs](#)

- Public Procurement
- Climate Action

In addition, each module is evaluated according to four main pillars - Data Governance, Capabilities, Accessibility, and Use and Impact.

Data Governance indicators assess existing regulations, processes, and institutions that facilitate data accessibility and protection. Governance indicators generally assess the legal and political framework in place in the country in terms of data ecosystems.

Capabilities Indicators are concerned with whether the country has the means, connectivity, skills, and institutional capacity to create, share, and use data for the public good.

Data availability indicators constitute the largest section of the primary survey and explore whether certain categories of data are available, shared, and of adequate quality to allow reuse for the public good.

Data use and impact indicators are concerned with finding evidence of particular uses of data and their impact on the country.

To provide a more comprehensive and complete picture, GDB additionally relies on secondary data from international organizations and indexes such as [ODW Open Data Index](#), [World Health Organization](#), [Freedom House](#), [UN](#), [World Bank](#), [Global Innovation Index](#), [WE Forum](#), [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#) and Others. The data obtained from these sources are integrated into the final scores of the GDB through the use of various multipliers and weights.³

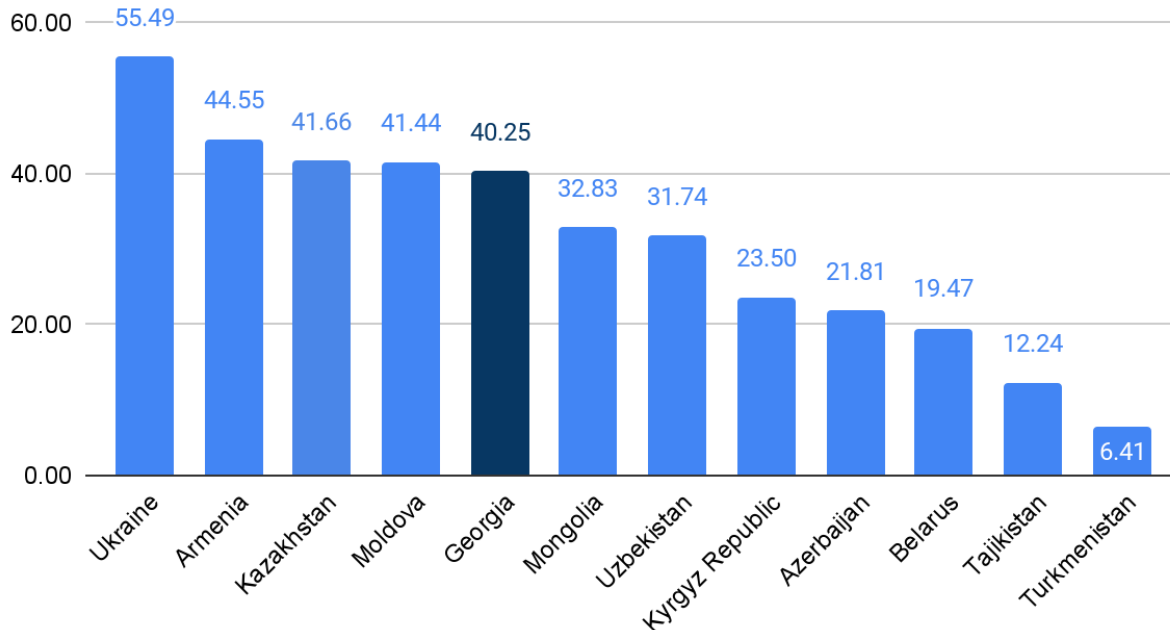
Overall Scores in the Region

Overall Total Scores

In the Eastern Europe and Central Asian region, **the highest scores were found in Ukraine** in the scope of the research. The diagram below shows the average score obtained for all GDB indicators and modules on a 100-point scale. In this regard, Georgia ranks fifth out of 12 countries in the region with 40.25 points, after Ukraine, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Moldova. Significantly lower results were observed in Azerbaijan, Belarus and the remaining Central Asian countries.

³ [See additional details on scoring methodology](#)

Overall Total Scores



Results per Key Indicators

The Overall scores of the index reflect the general situation in the region, although for a more accurate and detailed analysis it is necessary to discuss the results in terms of individual modules and indicators.

In terms of **Data Governance**, Ukraine and Armenia are leading in the region with 61.13 and 54.66 points, respectively. In this component, Georgia ranks seventh with a score of 34.54, indicating relatively weak regulations, processes, and institutions for data governance and protection.

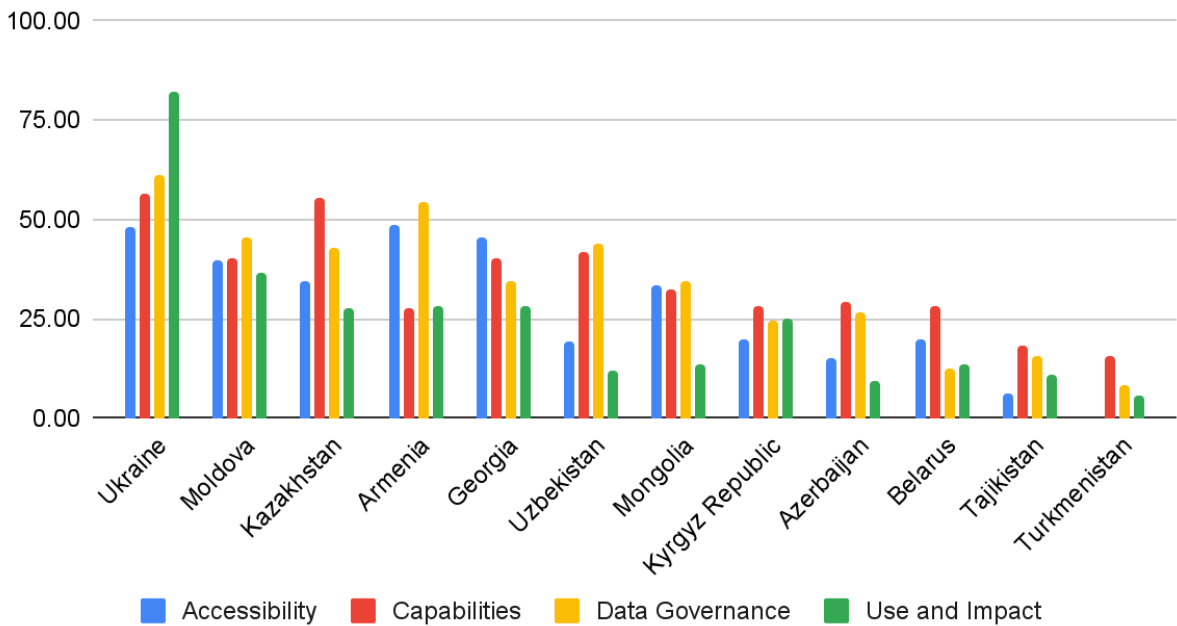
As per **Capacity indicators**, Ukraine still holds the leading position with 56.53 points, while Kazakhstan lags slightly behind with 55.48 points. These indicators assess the country's efforts to train public servants, support for third-party use of public data, open data policies, and other relevant circumstances.

In terms of the **Data Accessibility indicators**, Armenia leads with 48.53 points. The second and third places in the region are held by Ukraine and Georgia with 48.32 and 45.53 points. This component represents the average score obtained under the seven modules (Assessment of access to Major Data Categories) and reflects the assessment of the quality, openness, and usability of public data available in the country.

Ukraine's results in terms of the **Use and Impact indicators** (82.08 points) are significantly higher than other countries in the region. Moldova and Georgia rank second and third in this respect, indicating a fair amount of practical use cases of public data in these countries. The lowest scores in this component were

observed in Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Tajikistan. Overall, The Use and Impact component was the most challenging for the region. In most countries, practical use cases of public data are only sporadic and mainly led by media and civil society organizations, indicating a lack of private sector and academia engagement.

Results per Key Indicators

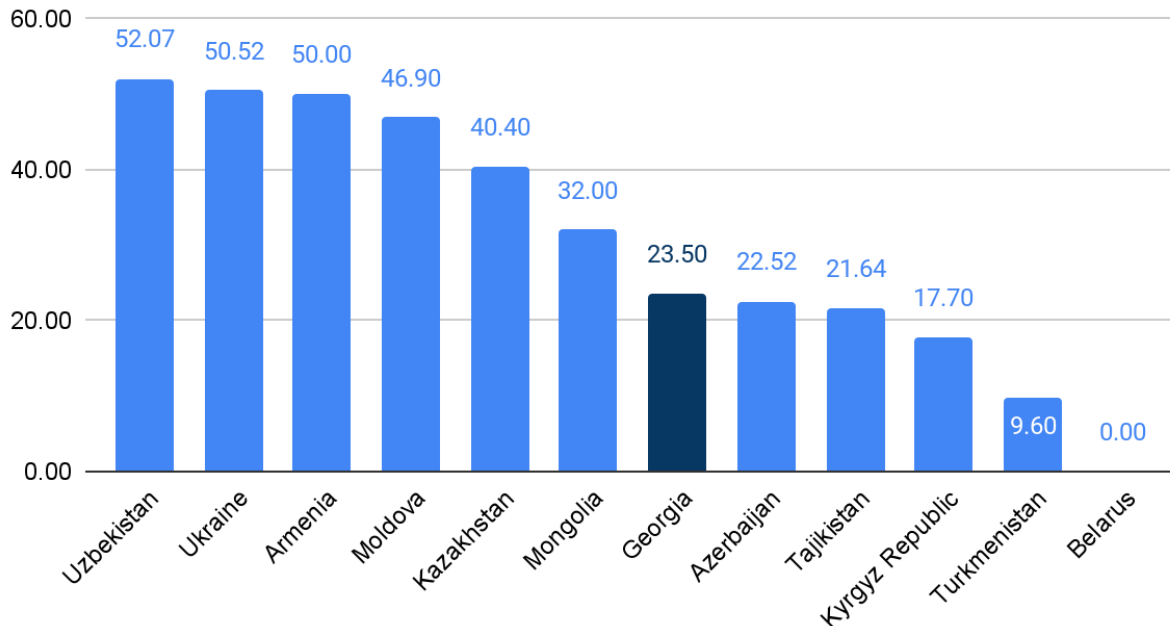


Results per GDB Modules

Governance

The governance module includes the main indicators of data governance: open data policy, data protection, Data-Sharing Frameworks, data governance, availability, accessibility, and more. The highest scores in the region were recorded in Uzbekistan and Ukraine, with 52.07 and 50.52 points, respectively. In this regard, Georgia showed lower than average results with 23.50 points, due to the fact that the country does not have an open data policy, a legal framework for public data exchange, and a unified framework for public data management.

Governance

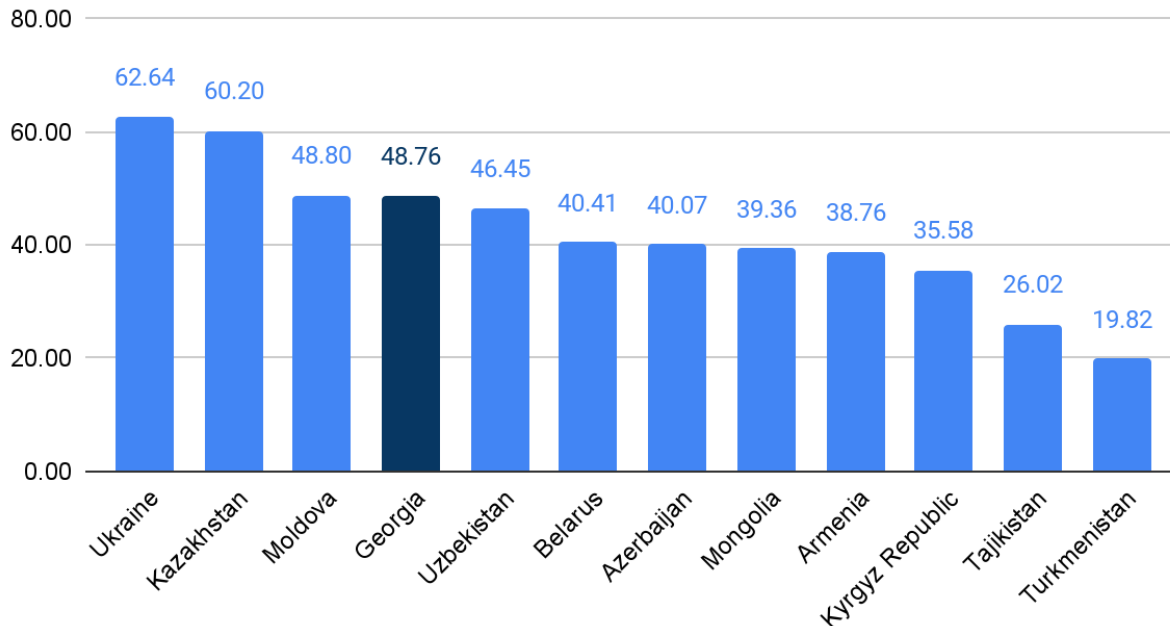


Capabilities

Similar to the governance module, the capabilities module also includes key indicators of data capabilities assessing open data initiatives, activity at the sub-national level, and public service capacity. Leading positions within this module are held by Ukraine and Kazakhstan with 62.64 and 60.20 points. The relatively high ratings are due to government-organized training activities and programs for public servants at both central and local levels, which is less common in other countries in the region.

Georgia was assessed with 48.76 points within this module. There are some examples of government support and incentives for data reuse in the country, mainly in the form of hackathons and data competitions, mainly organized by the National Statistics Office (Geostat) and Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA). However, on the other hand, there are still significant gaps, namely the government's open data portal, which lacks regular updates and adequate technical support, and the lack of capacity in terms of data governance at the local level.

Capabilities

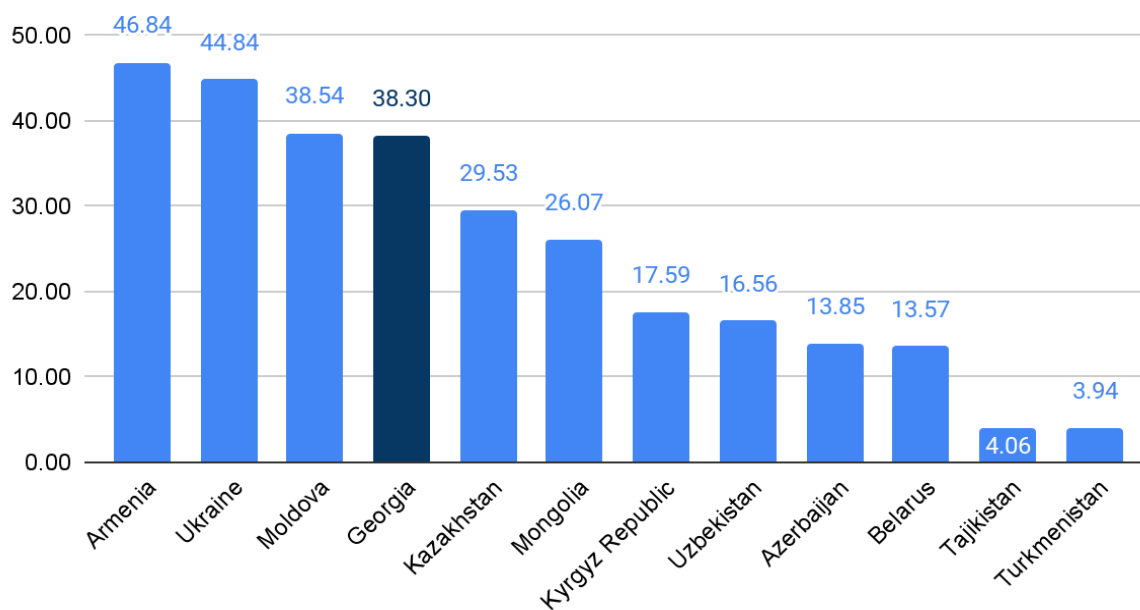


Political Integrity

The Political Integrity module includes indicators that assess the transparency of political party funding, access to lobbying data, publicity of asset declarations of public officials, transparency of public consultation data in the decision-making process, and public data disclosure practices by state institutions in general. According to the assessment of this module, the leading positions in the region are held by Armenia, Ukraine, and Moldova, while the lowest results are observed in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Under this module, Georgia has earned the best rating in the Political Finance component and ranks first in the region in this regard. Relatively high scores were also observed in the asset declarations component, due to the fact that the asset declarations of public servants are public and widely accessible, the portal is maintained and the information is regularly updated. The main challenge in this regard is the fact that these data are not available in open formats. Georgia scored lowest in the public consultations component, as the country has a low degree of citizen engagement in the decision-making process and therefore, lacks mechanisms for data collection and processing for this process.

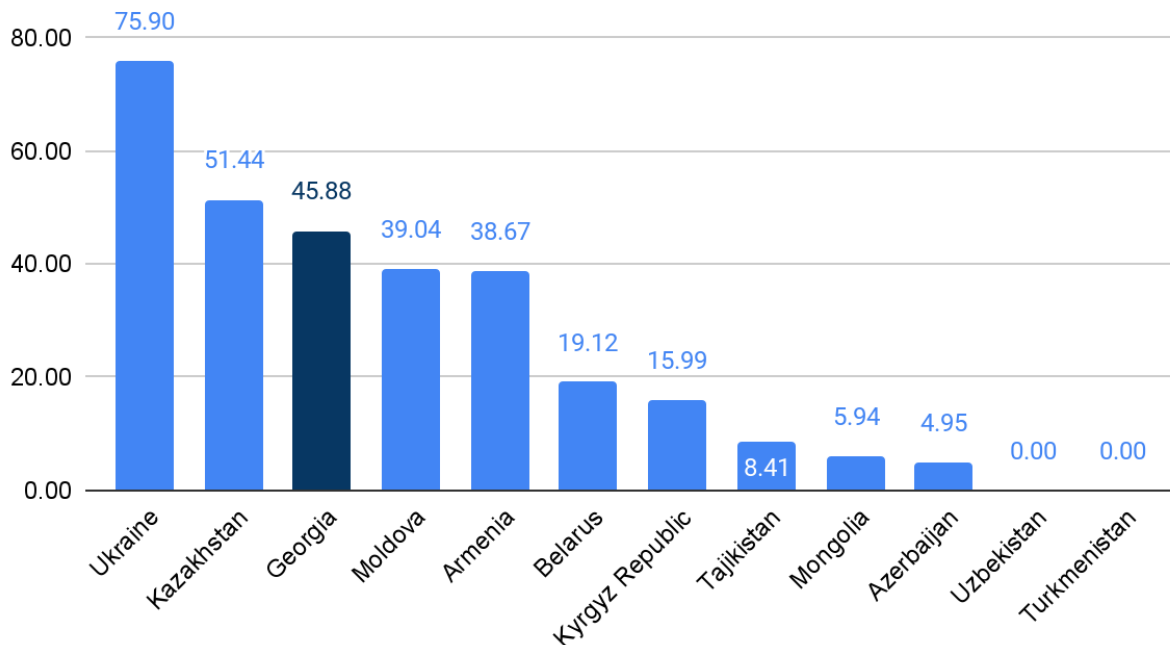
Political Integrity



Company Information

This module assesses the availability of data on companies registered in the country and the existing legislation and practices surrounding beneficial ownership. Among the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Ukraine had the best results with 75.90 points, while Georgia was in third place with 45.88 points, despite the low scores in terms of the Beneficial Ownership Regulatory Framework indicator. Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan scored 0 in this component, indicating a particularly closed environment in terms of Company Information Data.

Company Information

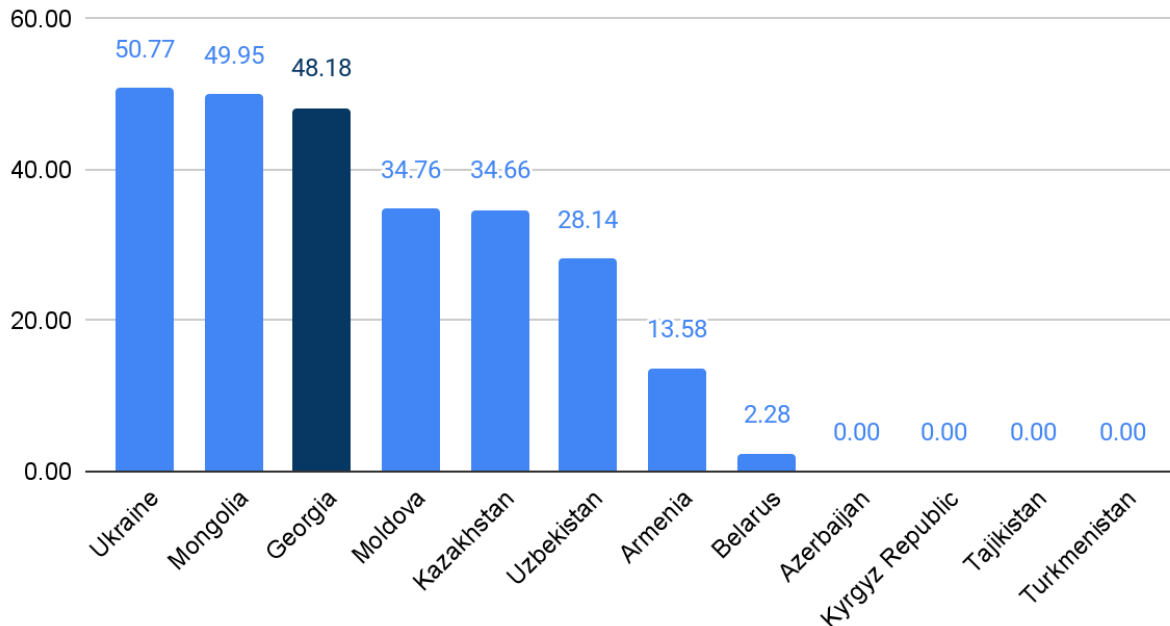


Land Data

This module mainly assesses the availability of data on land ownership and tenure, as well as practical use cases of this data within the country. This component proved to be quite problematic for the region due to the fact that four countries scored 0 on all indicators, namely Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. This is due to the fact that data on land ownership and tenure in these countries are not collected or made publicly available. On the other hand, relatively high scores were observed in Ukraine, Mongolia, and Georgia (48 ~ 50.77 points), which is due to the existence of a well-maintained cadastral system in these countries.

Information on land use and tenure in Georgia is managed by the National Agency of Public Registry. Individual records can be accessed through the search function as well as through the electronic map portal. However, there is a charge for full access to the data, which significantly hinders accessibility.

Land Data

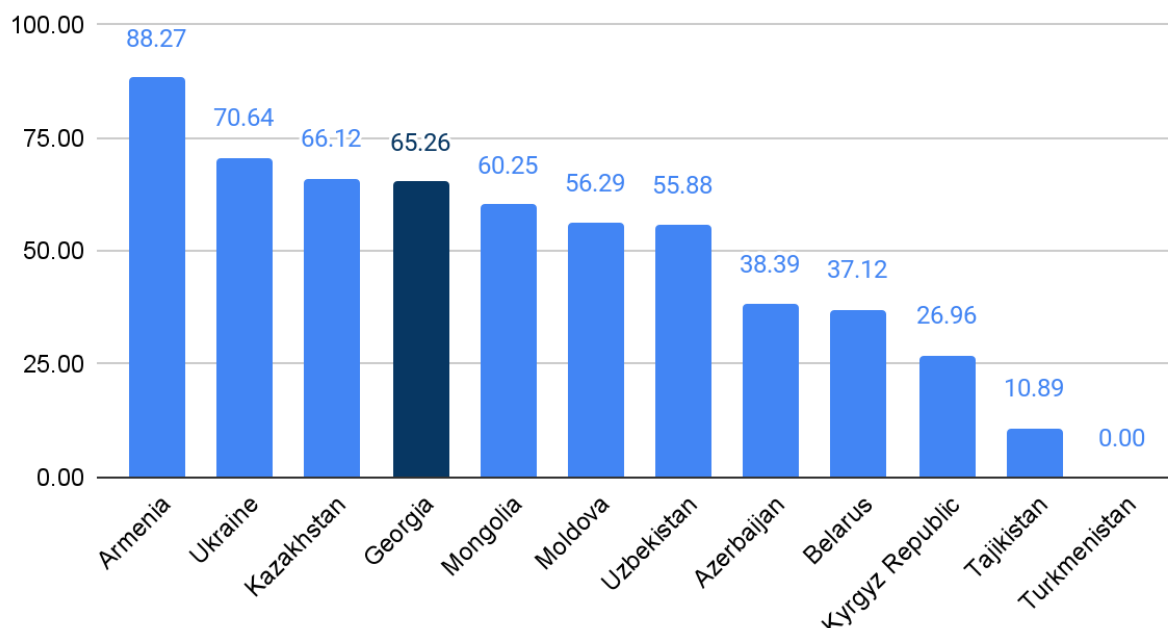


Public Finance

The public finance module indicators assess the availability of data on the state budget and the degree of their accessibility. The best results in the region in this regard were observed in Armenia, based on the existing legal framework in the country and the availability of budget and expenditure data on the platform of the Ministry of Finance of Armenia. The latter allows viewing financial data structured through both administrative and economic filters. Relatively high results were also observed in the case of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Georgia.

Under the Public Finance module, Georgia ranks fourth in the region with 65.26 points. The main challenges identified have to do with the fact that data is not available in bulk, in machine-readable formats, disaggregated transactions are not available, and there is no legal framework requiring the publication of structured data.

Public Finance

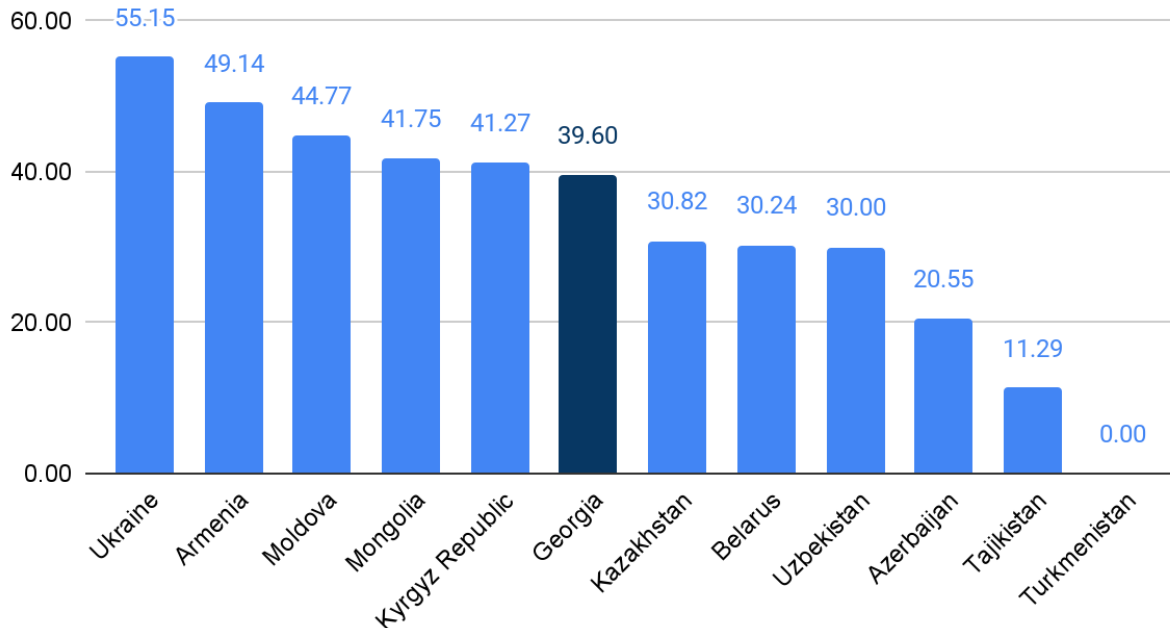


Health and Covid-19

This module assesses the availability and quality of vital statistics, real-time healthcare system capacity data, and the availability and quality of Covid-19 vaccination statistics. Ukraine and Armenia hold the leading positions in the region with 55.15 and 49.14 points. While the lowest scores were observed in Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Vaccination data and general statistics are available in almost every country in the region, although access to machine-readable and open formats is a significant challenge.

Georgia was evaluated with 39.6 points in this module, which is a rather low result relative to other countries in the region. The main reason for the low score is the lack of real-time healthcare system capacity data. As for vaccination data, it is published on the specialized statistics website of the National Center for Disease Control, which is dedicated to the vaccination process. The data is presented in the form of graphs and interactive maps, but a machine-readable dataset is not available in bulk. In addition, the data lacks several key indicators and is not sufficiently disaggregated by different indicators.

Health and Covid19



Public Procurement

The module assesses the availability and accessibility of public procurement data, its timeliness, quality, accuracy and relevancy, and the performance of analytical procurement portals (if such exists in the corresponding country). For the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the public procurement module is distinguished by relatively high scores. With the exception of Turkmenistan, public procurement data is available in all countries of the region in one way or another, and open contract data standards (OCDS) are widely used. Particularly noteworthy are the public procurement portals of Ukraine⁴, Kazakhstan⁵, Armenia⁶ and Moldova⁷, which have received high evaluations. In addition to the performance of the portals, these countries are also distinguished by the abundance of use-cases for public procurement data by both civil society and the media. Georgia's results were also positively assessed in this regard.

Georgia received 59.63 points in the public procurement module. There are many use-cases of this data in the country - mainly by NGOs, and the media. The existence of the state procurement portal and the information published on it made it possible to develop analytical platforms based on it by third parties,⁸ which make this data more accessible to stakeholders. Furthermore, the country has started to introduce

⁴ <https://prozorro.gov.ua/>

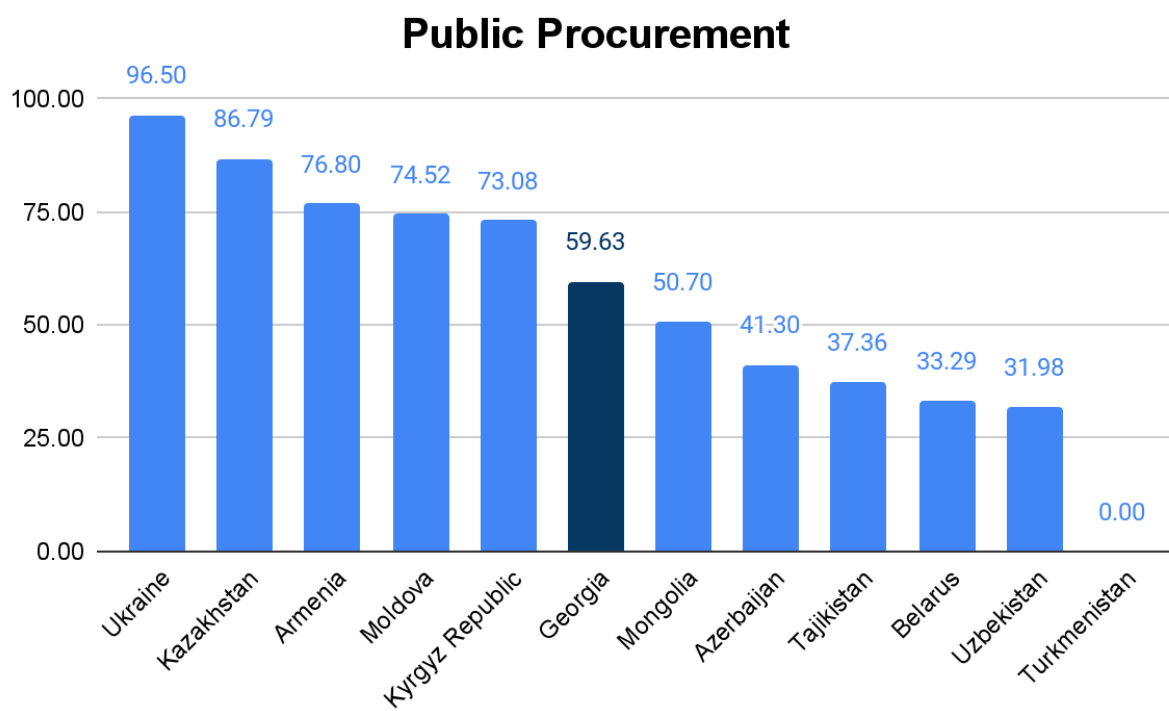
⁵ <https://opentender.kz>

⁶ <https://armeps.am/ppcm/public/reports>

⁷ <https://mtender.gov.md/en/public/about>

⁸ <https://www.tendermonitor.ge/>

open contract data standards, but the portal and published data made available under the initiative have not been updated since 2019.

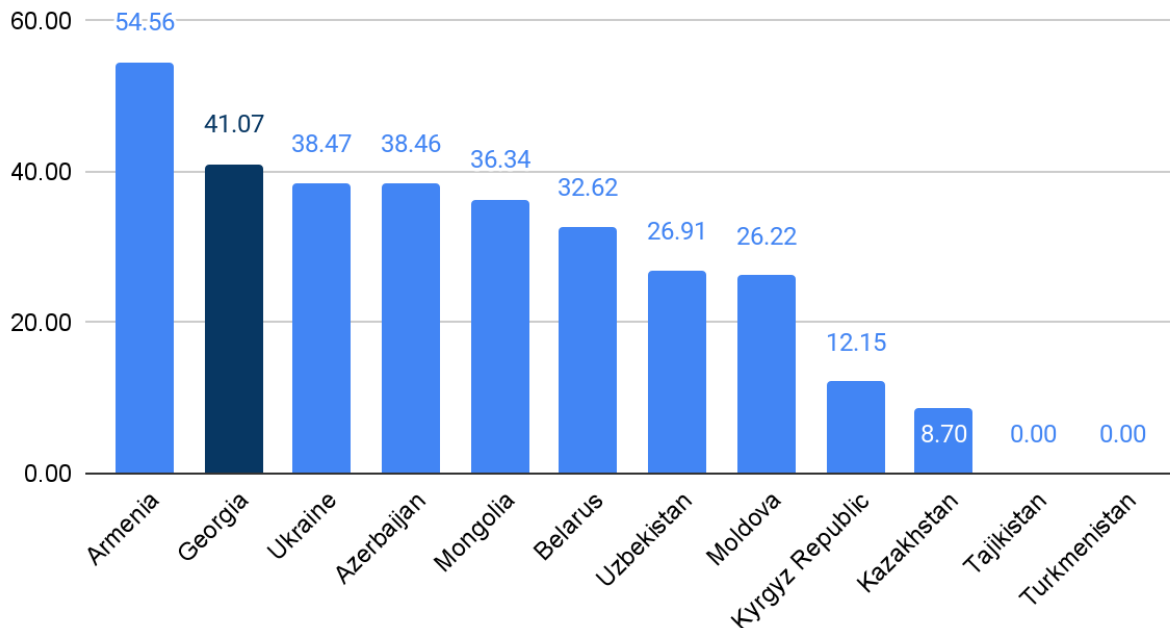


Climate Action

The Climate Action Module assesses data availability in three main components: emissions, biodiversity, and population vulnerability. In this regard, Armenia and Georgia hold leading positions in the region in terms of high data availability, although availability in open and machine-readable formats remains a challenge.

Georgia's rating in this module was 41.07 points. Data on water quality and quantity are available on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Various categories of data on topics such as ozone-depleting substances, pollutant emissions, carbon dioxide emissions, domestic water use, etc. are available on the website of the National Statistics Office. In terms of climate action data, the most important challenge for the country is vulnerability data, since it is not collected and processed at the national level (Data on risks to local agricultural activities, population access to early warning systems, demographic data on residents at risk of natural disasters, data on infrastructure at risk, etc.).

Climate Action



Marginalized Groups

In addition to the survey, A general assessment of the situation surrounding marginalized groups was made in the scope of the GDB. Ethnic minorities are found in most countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, such as the Uzbek population in Tajikistan, ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis in Georgia, various groups in Azerbaijan, and so on. IDPs were a common denominator in conflict-affected regions such as Georgia and Ukraine.

In broader terms, several researchers identified the following groups as marginalized in their respective countries: women, the LGBTQ + community, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and rural populations. One interesting trend that was uncovered had to do with the official recognition of marginalized / vulnerable groups by the state. Although some countries mention such groups in their legislative / policy documents and are actively involved in addressing the challenges they face, some have not yet taken formal steps in this direction.

Main Challenges in the Region

The analysis of GDB results reveals certain trends and challenges specific to the region:

- Countries in the region need a rigid regulatory framework for open data access, as most countries are not guided by uniform open data standards. In this regard, a strong political will is needed to raise awareness among decision-makers about the importance of open data ecosystems in the country.
- An important component is to increase the capacity of all relevant actors involved in the management process of open data. In particular, the persons responsible for collecting, processing, publishing, and using the data. In this regard, raising the qualification of public servants in the field of data-sharing and management is a particular priority.
- Capacity-building activities focused on civil society, media and the private sector are important to increase the positive outcomes/impacts stemming from the practical uses of open data. Establishing partnerships between different stakeholders on open data collection, publication, and use is crucial. The multisectoral and multilateral collaboration will significantly increase the impact of data initiatives on public welfare. Various stakeholders have the potential to collaborate on their efforts and develop innovative services and new products that have a positive impact on the public good and well-being of citizens.
- The benefits of open data to civil society and the media are already undeniable, although the economic potential of the data is currently not fully realized and encouraged. By focusing on the economic aspects of open data, it is possible to intensify and further develop open data practices in the region.

Recommendations for Georgia

- According to Data Governance indicators, Georgia ranks seventh in the region with 34.54 points. The results showed that it is important to establish/improve regulations, processes, and institutions to facilitate and protect data accessibility, and to strengthen existing efforts in this regard. Particular attention should be paid to the following requirements: a unified open data policy, a legal framework for public data exchange, and a common standard for public data management.
- In terms of data capabilities, it is necessary to reactivate the work surrounding the existing government open data portal and regularly publish relevant datasets on it. In the initial stage, the

involvement of all public institutions that collect and process public data of high public interest is desirable in this process. Additionally, the need to develop data management capabilities at the local level was identified as one of the main challenges according to the survey.

- In the political accountability module, Georgia received one of the highest scores for the asset declarations indicator. The main need in this regard is open access to this data. The same module highlighted the need to improve public consultations as a mechanism for involvement in the decision-making process and to establish mechanisms for data collection and processing in this area.
- There is a fee for obtaining complete data on land use in Georgia, which significantly hinders the availability of said data. In order to meet the open standards in this component, it is necessary to remove the Paywall.
- The state collects and publishes data on private companies, although it is also important to encourage the use of this data by the public. In addition, it is important to adopt and implement beneficial ownership transparency standards.
- In terms of public finance, it is essential that budget data be made available in bulk, in machine-readable formats. Additionally, the data needs to be disaggregated at the level of individual transactions, and the requirement to publish structured data should be reflected at the legislative level.
- It is important to collect real-time healthcare system capacity data in the country and publish it in an openly accessible format. Vaccination data should be made available in bulk, machine-readable format, and disaggregated by various indicators.
- In terms of climate data, it is important to start collecting and processing vulnerability data, both at the national and local levels.

